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CITIZEN NEWS

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Citizen Input Sought for FY2007 Budget: Tax Rate Reduction on the Horizon

Real Estate assessments were mailed to all property owners in the County late last year. Most everyone experienced a sizable increase in their property value. Given this increase, it is understood that if the real property tax rate is not reduced property owners will pay significantly more in taxes because of the increased assessments. As a result, the Board of Supervisors has directed the County Administrator to develop a proposed budget that will include the greatest tax rate reduction possible while still continuing the services and programs available to our residents.

Staff is currently working on developing the budget - reviewing data and crunching numbers - and will be prepared to present a proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors in March. Prior to that presentation, the County would like to receive citizen input about the budget while it is still in these early development stages. Citizens may address the Board at a Public Forum on Tuesday, February 21 at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of York Hall. The proposed Fiscal Year 2007 budget (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007) will be presented to the Board and the public on Tuesday, March 7 at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of York Hall.

Following the presentation of the proposed budget it will be available for public review in the County libraries, the Williamsburg/James City County libraries, on the County's web

See **Budget**, continued on page 8

Celebrate 225th Anniversary in Yorktown

This October marks the 225th anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown, the climactic victory of the American Revolution that secured independence for America. A four-day celebration, "A Salute to the Men and Women of the Armed Forces," will take place October 19-22 with events on the Yorktown Battlefield, the Yorktown Victory Center, and in historic Yorktown.

A parade and a variety of patriotic ceremonies will take place on October 19, the anniversary of the British surrender. Throughout the celebration, thousands of Revolutionary War re-enactors will provide military and tactical demonstrations and will recreate important episodes from the siege, including the British surrender. Yorktown's spectacular new Riverwalk Landing will be the setting for a waterfront festival of music, children's activities, an arts show, and tall ship displays. For information, call the National Park Service at 898-2410 or York County Public Information at 890-3300.

Future Athletic Fields Complex

Plans are well underway for a new County athletic field complex. This new facility is the result of many years of study, negotiation, and planning that began in 1991. The site chosen is part of the Newport News watershed property and development will utilize approximately 75 acres. The entrance to the park is currently planned to be off of Route 17 adjacent to the Wendy's restaurant across from Heritage Square Shopping Center. Exiting the park will be permissible at that same location on Route 17 as well as on Oriana Road. Fields planned for the park include: five little league fields (60 ft. base paths), one adult baseball field (90 ft. base paths), one adult softball field, two instructional soccer fields, and four regulation soccer fields - all projected to be lighted. "This is the biggest park project the County has ever undertaken," states Cheryl Sonderman, the County's Parks and Recreation Manager.

See **Athletic Fields** continued on page 8

The proposal has the public entering the park near the Wendy's restaurant on Rt. 17.

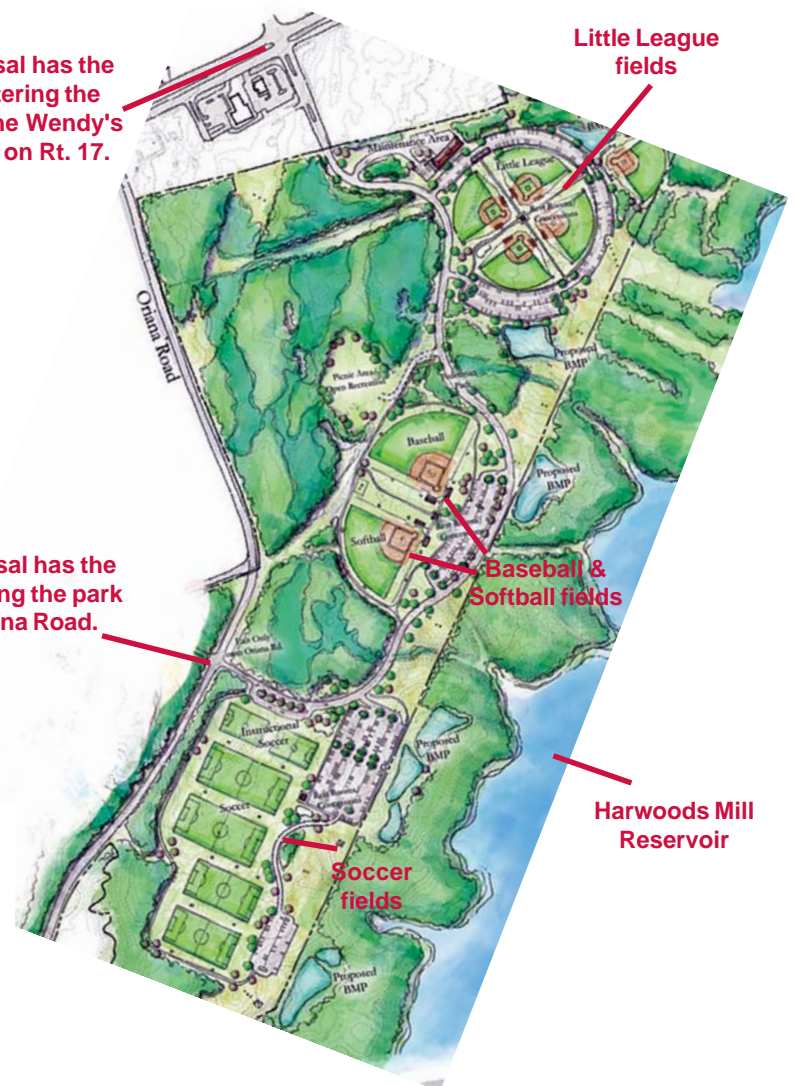
Little League fields

The proposal has the public exiting the park onto Oriana Road.

Baseball & Softball fields

Soccer fields

Harwoods Mill Reservoir



Board of Supervisors Actions

November 15, 2005

●Authorized the establishment of a mini-storage warehouse facility at 1520 George Washington Memorial Highway. The facility will be unlike other mini-storage facilities in the County in that all access to the units would be via interior corridors within a three-story building. There will be no outside bay doors and the building will not have the appearance of a mini-storage warehouse. The location is at the intersection of Route 17 and Coventry Boulevard.

December 6, 2005

- Approved the revised Comprehensive Plan. See the article on page 7.
- Authorized the execution of a lease extension agreement with Grafton II Associates and Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate for rental space at Washington Square Shopping Center for the Senior Center of York. The Center receives over 17,000 participants a year who enjoy a wide variety of programs. Located in three conjoined storefront units, the Senior Center's new lease will expire January 31, 2011.
- Authorized the purchase and installation arrangements for athletic field lighting at Coventry Elementary and Grafton-Bethel Elementary Schools. The contract was awarded to Branham Electric for the amount of \$174,500. Funds were available in the Capital Improvement Plan to complete the purchase.

December 20, 2005

●Authorized the establishment of a regional shopping center to be located at 165 and 175 Water Country Parkway. The plans include almost 800,000 square feet of retail space. The development will generate significant new tax revenue and create thousands of new jobs for York County. Projected opening is March 2008.

January 3, 2006

●Established the Board's Rules of Procedure for 2006, including the establishment of the term of office for the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the establishment of the times, days, and location of the Regular Meetings of the Board of Supervisors. The Honorable Walter C. Zaremba (District 1) was elected Chairman for 2006. The Honorable Kenneth L. Bowman (District 3) was elected Vice-Chairman for 2006. Regular Meetings of the Board will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the East Room, York Hall, 301 Main Street, Yorktown, (with the exception of the months of July and November), and on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Board Room, York Hall. Public Hearings begin at 7 p.m. during the second meeting of the month and are scheduled on issues as required by law and about which the Board wishes to hear citizens' views.

January 17, 2006

●Approved the County's participation in the National Association of Counties (NACo) Prescription Drug Program. In the near future, the County will make free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by NACo that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. The County's Special Programs Division of Community Services will be coordinating this program.

Contact Your Board Member

District 1

Walter C. Zaremba
106 Royal Grant Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 890-3328 (voice mail)
zaremba@yorkcounty.gov

District 2

Sheila S. Noll
133 Tradewinds Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3329 (voice mail)
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District 3

Kenneth L. Bowman
109 York Point Drive
Seaford, VA 23696
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District 4

James S. Burgett
106 Pageland Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3331 (voice mail)
burgett@yorkcounty.gov

District 5

Thomas G. Shepperd
131 Chinquapin Orchard
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3332 (voice mail)
shepperd@yorkcounty.gov

Board Appointments

•Colonial Services Board

Jeanne Eickhoff

•Library Board

Penny L. Showalter

Appointments are made by the Board of Supervisors. Approximately 200 citizens are appointed to various boards, committees and commissions to assist in governing York County. Citizens who wish to be considered for an appointment can fill out a board/commission application or contact the York County Administration Office at 890-3320.

York County Head Start Accepting Applications

Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2005-06 school year. This FREE program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is licensed through the state by the Department of Social Services. Enrollment is open to families meeting federal income guidelines and whose children are ages 3, 4, and 5 by September 30. This program welcomes children with special needs and disabilities.

Children attend Head Start classes September through May on Tuesday through Friday mornings for half-days. Children receive a USDA breakfast and lunch, while the child's family receives case management services. Head Start is licensed for 117 children with seven classrooms located in York County. Limited transportation services are provided.

Head Start does not discriminate in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

If you would like more information about Head Start or would like to volunteer, call 890-3888, or visit the office located in the Griffin-Yeates Center, 1490 Government Road in Williamsburg. Applications can be taken immediately over the phone for those citizens interested in enrollment opportunities.

13th Annual 5K Run for Children April 29

The 13th Annual Queen's Lake 5K Run for Children has been scheduled to take place in New Quarter Park on Saturday, April 29. Included will be: A One-Mile Fun Run/Walk starting at 8:30 a.m., and a 5K Run/Walk starting at 9 a.m.

Entries postmarked by April 14 will cost \$14 per adult, and \$9 per child under age 12. Entries mailed after April 14 or paid on race day will cost \$17 per adult and \$10 per child under age 12. There is no fee for the One-Mile Fun Run/Walk. Proceeds will benefit the Head Start program of York County's Children's Services Division. Checks should be made payable to Treasurer, County of York and mailed to: 5K Run for Children, 1490 Government Road, Williamsburg, VA, 23185.

For entry forms, call or email Belinda Willis at 890-3888 (willisb@yorkcounty.gov) or Rick Platt at 229-7375.

Adult Education Classes

Is your New Year's resolution to make more money this year? If so, then the Adult Education Center can help! The York County School Division offers free classes to adults who are 18 and over who want to pursue their GED. Free classes are also available to adult speakers of other languages who wish to improve their English skills. Daytime and evening classes are offered. For more information, call Kathy Phillips at 833-2259.

EDS Adds New Distribution Lists

The County's Department of Environmental and Development Services has added three email distribution lists for building code changes, garbage/recycling news, and mosquito control/drainage maintenance updates. Visit www.yorkcounty.gov/eds to review the lists and sign up!

Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Real Estate and Mobile Home Owners

York County offers a program to taxpayers who are age 65 or older or permanently disabled, which exempts, or partially exempts the tax on real estate or mobile homes provided the following requirements are met:

- The owner must be age 65 or older or permanently disabled as of December 31 of the year immediately preceding the tax year
- Must file an application on or before April 1 of each year
- Combined income from all sources must be \$50,000 or less
- Those that qualify for permanently disabled are allowed a \$10,000 deduction from their income (per disabled owner)
- Combined maximum financial worth (or assets) cannot exceed \$200,000 (excludes qualifying residence, furnishings and up to ten acres of land)
- Qualifying applicant(s) must reside on the property
- Must submit a copy of their FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN (Forms 1040/1040A) if they were required to file, along with the application
- Must submit a copy of the annual Social Security Statement/Annuity Statement, W-2(s), 1099(s), and any other statement providing the source of income for all owners, along with the application
- Must provide a copy of statements from each financial institution (checking, saving, stocks/mutual funds, certificate(s) of deposit, etc.) for all owners
- Certain other conditions may apply
- Owner(s) must notify the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office immediately of any changes made during the year in income, financial worth, ownership or other factors affecting the qualification for relief.

Send application to Ann H. Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, P.O. Box 90, Yorktown, VA, 23690-0090. For assistance, call 890-3382, email revofc@yorkcounty.gov, or visit the Internet site at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

Business License Renewals due March 1

The deadline for renewing your Business License is March 1. Taxpayers are encouraged to mail the renewal to: Ann H. Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, P.O. Box 189, Yorktown, VA, 23690-0189 or, for after hours, use the night deposit box located outside the Finance Building on the side facing Route 17. For more information on Business License requirements, call 890-3383, email revofc@yorkcounty.gov, or visit the Internet site at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

If you filed a Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ, "Profit or Loss from a Business" with your Federal Income Tax Return, you are considered engaged in business and required to obtain a York County Business License. In addition, you are also required to file a **Tax Return of Business Tangible Personal Property, Machinery and Tools**, annually to report all business furniture, tools and equipment owned, used, or leased as of January 1, 2006. This form must be filed on or before February 15, 2006.

Office of Economic Development: Local Business Report

by Melissa Dickens, Business Development Representative. Telephone - 890-3317 or Email econdev@yorkcounty.gov.

Two years ago, York County's Office of Economic Development sent a Business Retention survey to over 1,600 businesses in the County. We received approximately 230 responses for about a 14 percent return rate. While this is a respectable return rate, our office is striving for a greater number of responses in 2006. The purpose of the survey is to identify any needs or specific problems that may be impacting the success or possible expansion of businesses in York County and to gauge our current business climate. Many of you will receive a "Business Retention Survey" during January and February as part of our office's ongoing expansion and retention efforts. Our office appreciates what your business contributes in the way of jobs for our residents and revenue to our community. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it in the prepaid envelope, or fax it to our office. We are encouraging all businesses who would like to participate to fill out the survey on our web site at www.yorkcounty.gov/econdev. If this is not an option, please call our office and

we will be happy to send you the survey.

The York County E-Commerce Business Assistance Grant Program offers matching grant funds to any York County business that would like to establish or enhance their on-line presence. Business owners can apply for matching grants of up to \$500 each (\$1000 for Woman or Minority owned businesses) for the purposes of creating a web site for their business or upgrading their current web site. Applications can be submitted on-line and will be reviewed on a monthly, rolling basis. Only work done after the Chamber's approval will qualify for a grant. Interested businesses should contact the York County Chamber of Commerce at www.yorkcountyycc.org or 877-5920 for information on the program.

The York County Office of Economic Development is here to serve both new and existing businesses. If you are interested in establishing, expanding, or relocating a business in York County, please contact us and let us know how we can assist you or help improve the County's business environment for everyone.



Grafton Square - a new retail center located on Route 17 North in Grafton. Businesses will include Papa John's Pizza, Movie Gallery, and MedExpress.

The STONE QUARRY



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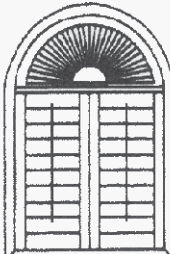
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The York County School Division

302 Dare Rd., Yorktown, Va. 23692 • (757) 898-0300 • yorkcountyschools.org

YCSD Receives Finance Awards

The York County School Division's Fiscal Year 2006 budget received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

The Division's Fiscal Year 2004 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Association of School Business Officials International and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

This is the seventh consecutive year that the school division has earned all four awards. The York County School Division is one of only four school divisions in Virginia that received all four awards.

Board Assesses Goals and Objectives

During a January retreat, the School Board reviewed the progress of the school division throughout the past two years and many accomplishments were reported.

Goal 1 - Increased academic achievement: All division schools earned full accreditation in 2005 and the division met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards. Summer school programs utilized the Virtual High School system for original credit courses.

Goal 2 - High academic expectations: Phase II of the technology refurbishment plan reached Grafton High and Grafton Middle as the schools received new hardware and software. A new Middle School Arts Magnet program opened at Queens Lake Middle School and planning for a middle years International Baccalaureate program is underway.

Goal 3 - Recruit, hire and retain a highly qualified, diverse staff: The professional development program focused on improving teacher skills to meet new accountability demands. Teacher salaries are in the top half of the region, improving our ability to recruit and hire highly qualified applicants.

Goal 4 - Provide safe, secure, healthy and well-disciplined learning environments: New playground equipment was installed at all elementary schools to comply with the latest safety standards. The division distributed information on improving nutrition, eliminating bullying, preventing substance abuse and guiding anger management.

Goal 5 - Utilize effective communications techniques: The division's website has been standardized and all schools now have a cohesive website format. Channel 47 programming has expanded and the division's y-Line email system allows parents and community members to receive targeted messages. The division also implemented Connect-Ed, a telephone notification system.

This summary doesn't cover all of the information presented at the retreat. More information can be found online at <http://yorkcountyschools.org>.

Spring 2006 Calendar

February 20	Holiday/Schools & Offices Closed
March 3	Early Dismissal
March 31	Early Dismissal
April 5	Report Cards Issued
April 17-21	Spring Break
May 12	Early Dismissal
May 29	Holiday/Schools & Offices Closed
June 12-15	High School Semester Exams
June 13-15	Early Dismissal
June 15	Last Day of School
June 21	Report Cards Issued

Bus Safety Tips



These tips, provided by the YCSD Transportation Department,

will help our bus drivers and students stay safe on the road!

- ◆ STOP on either side of the road when a bus displays flashing red warning lights and extends the stop signal arm
- ◆ Do not pass the bus until the lights are turned off and the stop signal arm is retracted
- ◆ Remember, a bus has to stop at all railroad crossings
- ◆ Be nice, allow room for a bus to merge if the driver has turned on its signal
- ◆ Encourage children to speak softly when riding the school bus so they do not distract the driver
- ◆ Never walk behind a bus. Always walk at least 10 steps away from the bus and be sure you can see the driver's face
- ◆ Children should follow all bus safety rules posted at the front of the bus



York County Riverwalk Completed - Whether you're into fitness walking or a casual stroll, you'll find there's no better place to take that walk than the newly completed Riverwalk along the York River. The 1.25 mile walk begins on Water Street near the National Park Service picnic area and continues along the road before curving to the east along the water. The walk takes you through Riverwalk Landing, behind the Watermen's Museum, and then to the Yorktown Victory Center. The photo above was taken just south of the Victory Center looking back toward Riverwalk Landing. The orange fencing (to be removed soon) shows the course of the Riverwalk as it winds through the trees toward the Watermen's Museum. The new section of the Riverwalk provides access to areas that previously were not available: Fusiliers Redoubt, Hangman's Point where the walkway climbs 50 feet above the river, and spectacular views of the York River and Coleman Bridge. Additional parking along Water Street is nearing completion. When finished, the lot near the Archer Cottage will provide 37 paved parking spaces and will be an excellent parking spot for beachgoers and Riverwalkers.

Mosquito Monitor Volunteers

York County Mosquito Control needs volunteers who are willing to join the fight against mosquitoes. Volunteers will be trained in a two-hour meeting and supplied with a mosquito light trap for monitoring an infestation in their locale for surveillance purposes. Citizen monitor volunteers play a big part in reporting mosquito counts and directly affect when and where ground spraying will occur. Our citizen volunteer mosquito monitoring program is a one-of-a-kind program that has won national acclaim. If you are interested in participating, call 890-3791 with your name, address, and telephone number by March 31. The training meeting is scheduled for the last week of April.



Drainage crews maintaining a County easement.

Easement Drainageway Maintenance Update

County drainage easements are maintained on a six-month rotating District (1-5) basis. This past year 143 miles of drainageway easements were maintained and 94 tons of debris were removed and hauled from them. Promoting drainage to prevent mosquitoes is a continuing goal and everyone, including you, can play a role in keeping our drainageways clean and unobstructed.

Mosquito Spray Hotline

The need for mosquito spraying usually doesn't occur until the middle of May. Two or three bothersome mosquitoes any earlier does not justify costly treatment. Spraying is based on validated surveillance, volunteer monitor reporting, and the number of citizen service requests for an area. The Mosquito Spray Hotline - 890-3793 - will be activated on Monday, May 15 and updated daily to let citizens know when and where ground spraying will be performed.

Mosquitoes Love ATV Ruts!

This picture is of an area frequented by ATV riders even though it is posted with many "No Trespassing" signs. Ruts left by ATVs are welcomed by mosquitoes searching for breeding areas. **Do not ride ATVs in posted areas.**





Board of Supervisors Chairman, Walt Zaremba (far right), applauds members of the Comprehensive Plan Review Steering Committee. Members are (left to right): Jack Christie, Ralph Smith, Nick Barba, Rick Moberg, Carole Ferro, and Jack Davis. Not pictured are Ken Bowman, A. T. Hamilton, Ron Kurz, Carl Loveland, Mark Medford, and Al Ptasznik.

Board Adopts Updated Comprehensive Plan

On December 6, 2005, the Board of Supervisors adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan titled "Charting the Course to 2025." The Comprehensive Plan is the 20-year plan for the physical development of the County and will serve as a guide to present and future policymakers in their decisions about zoning, transportation improvements, community facilities, and all other issues related to land use and development.

The new plan is the second update of the County's first true Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 1991. Although the updated plan continues the major goals, objectives, and overall policy direction established with the original plan - such as limiting residential growth and establishing a more sustainable balance between residential and commercial development - there are some new initiatives, including:

- Encouraging mixed-use development in certain designated areas,
- An effort to link land use planning more closely with transportation planning by reducing housing densities in undeveloped areas where the road network cannot support higher densities;
- Development of a coordinated system of walkways, bikeways, open space, linear park land, and other natural areas with the objective of creating a continuous "greenway" from one end of the County to the other, and with "spurs" running from that spine system to provide connections to schools, park facilities, and residential areas,
- An increased focus on blight reduction and property maintenance, including possible County purchase of blighted properties, and
- Increased emphasis on identifying and preserving historic resources in the County.

Over 700 citizens participated in this project in one way or another, some as members of a committee, others by attending one of 15 "Neighborhood Open Houses" that were held all across the County to allow people to share their ideas and their vision for York County's future, and others by participating in a telephone survey conducted to identify issues that are important to County residents. Twelve citizens played a particularly important role by serving on the Steering Committee that oversaw the update of the plan. Chaired by Planning Commission member Nick Barba, the Steering Committee spent an entire year on the plan, studying demographic and economic trends, sorting through the citizens' ideas and suggestions, and establishing goals, objectives, and implementation strategies that reflect the citizens' vision for York County's future.

The entire plan can be downloaded free of charge from the County's web site at www.yorkcounty.gov/planning. Printed copies of the plan and copies on CD will be available for purchase from the Planning Division in early 2006. For more information, please contact the Planning Division at 890-3404.

Sheriff's Citizen Academy

The York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office will schedule two Sheriff's Citizen Academies for 2006:

Class 2006A - April 10 to June 19

Class 2006B - August 28 to Nov. 6.

The York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office "Sheriff's Citizen Academy" is a 40-hour block of instruction designed to give the citizens of York County and the City of Poquoson a working knowledge of the Sheriff's Office and the criminal justice system. Eleven three-hour classes - Mondays from 7 to 10 p.m. - covering various areas of the Sheriff's Office and specific law enforcement topics will be held once a week. Certified law enforcement instructors, supervisors, personnel, as well as guest speakers, will conduct these instructional blocks.

The curriculum covers diverse topics such as 911 communications, hiring, training, policies and procedures, criminal investigations, criminal law, DUI investigations, family violence, narcotics enforcement, tactical operations, hostage negotiations, jail operations and fire-arms/weapons use. Emphasis will be placed on the patrol section due to its highly visible contact with the community.

The goal of the Sheriff's Citizen Academy is to increase law enforcement awareness, dispel suspicions and misconceptions, and increase community rapport through the educational process. Students' interaction and input will contribute to this two-way learning experience.

There is no charge for the academy, however a substantial commitment for participants to attend ten of the eleven scheduled sessions is required to successfully complete and receive a Certificate of Graduation. Additionally, each student must ride with a deputy for a minimum of four hours.

The academy is open to all citizens who reside or work in York County or the City of Poquoson. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and successfully pass a background investigation.

Call 890-3639 or 890-3642 for information. Applications can be downloaded at www.yorkcounty.gov/sheriff.

2005 State Income Tax Due May 1

Important Income Tax Changes

Standard Deduction: Beginning in 2005, the standard deduction increased as follows - Married filing a joint return, \$6,000 (formerly \$5,000); Married filing separate returns, \$3,000 (formerly \$2,500); Single filers remains \$3,000.

Filing Threshold: For 2005, the filing threshold increases as follows - Single or Married filing separate returns, \$7,000 (formerly \$5,000/\$4,000 respectively); Married filing a joint return, \$14,000 (formerly \$8,000).

Personal Exemption Amounts Increase: The personal exemption amounts for filers, spouses and dependents have been increased to \$900 (formerly \$800) per exemption. This change does not affect the exemption amount claimed for taxpayers age 65 and older or blind, which remains at \$800 per exemption.

NOTICE
Federal Tax Forms are not available from this office, but can be found at the York County Public Library in Tabb.

NEW!!! Automatic Six-Month Extension for Filing Income Tax Returns:

Beginning with tax year 2005, taxpayers receive an automatic six-month extension for filing from the original due date (May 1, 2006 for calendar year filers).

- No application for an extension is required.
- This extension does not extend the time to pay.
- You must pay at least 90 percent of your tax due by the original due date using a new voucher, Form 760IP.
- If you file your return within the extension date, and you did not pay at least 90% of your tax due, you will be subject to a penalty of 2% per month. The extension penalty is applied to the balance of the tax that was due May 1 through the date the return is filed. Maximum extension penalty is 12%.
- If you file more than six months after the original due date, the extension will not apply, and you will be subject to the late filing penalty of six percent of the tax due per month or part of a month, not to exceed 30%.
- Interest will be charged on the tax due amount, even if you meet the 90% payment requirement for returns with an automatic six months extension.

The office will prepare state returns for residents as long as a copy of the complete Federal Return is provided. For forms or help, call 890-3381, email revofc@yorkcounty.gov, visit the office at 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., or the following web sites: www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue and/or www.tax.virginia.gov.

Returns can be mailed to: Ann H. Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, P.O. Box 90, Yorktown, VA, 23690-0090.

Vehicle Registration Fee Due Feb. 15

The 2006 Vehicle Registration Fee must be paid by February 15. In 2003, the York County Code was amended eliminating the requirement to display a York County vehicle decal. However, the Vehicle Registration Fee must be paid each year. This year's payment deadline is February 15. For more information, call the Treasurer's Office at 890-3420.

Athletic Fields continued from page 1

Sonderman goes on to say "We believe the facilities will be well received by the community and the park will become a hub for recreational activities." The park will be open to the public and will also include bike and walking trails, picnic areas and playgrounds.

"The Athletic Field Needs Study completed by staff was the recipient of a National Association of Counties Achievement Award and the analysis methods have been requested by several communities nationwide," says County Administrator James "Mac" McReynolds. "The conciseness of the document and an understanding of the importance recreational programs play in the lives of County residents, aided the Board in deciding to move forward with site selection and the sports complex design." Vanesse Hangen Brustlin Inc. of Williamsburg (VHB) was hired to design the complex and worked with several agencies to ensure all requirements were met. VHB scheduled a full day of meetings and discussion with County and citizen representatives before plans were developed. Sonderman states, "We met with the Corps of Engineers to discuss wetlands issues, Dominion Virginia Power regarding power lines, Newport News Waterworks, Virginia Natural Gas, VDOT, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport regarding light pole height and future runway expansion plans, and more. The County, along with VHB, worked diligently to ensure all i's were dotted and all t's crossed before putting work into a site plan."

Preliminary plans show construction beginning within a year and completed within two to three years. "We believe the result of this hard work will be a sports complex that everyone in York County will be proud of and where athletes young and old from all over the region will have opportunities to compete against each other," says Walt Zaremba, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Budget, continued from page 1

site (www.yorkcounty.gov), in the County Information Office, and the Finance Office. The Board will receive public comment at the Public Hearing scheduled on Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of York Hall. In addition, comments may be mailed to P. O. Box 532 Yorktown, VA. 23690 or verbal comments may be left at 890-3220. Those wishing to have their comments included as a part of the record should include their name and address. The Board is scheduled to adopt the FY07 Budget and approve the tax rates Tuesday, April 4. All of the Board meetings are televised on WYCG-TV46.

Questions may be addressed to the Public Information Office at 890-3300 or piofc@yorkcounty.gov.

York County Board of Supervisors Meetings

The York County Board of Supervisors meetings are televised live on WYCG-TV46 on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 pm. The meetings are retelecast beginning the next day with the following schedule: Monday through Friday at 11 a.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m.

York County Beautification Committee



Waste Management Collection Service Reminders

Now that we are one year into the latest contract for curbside garbage collections, the staff of York County Waste Management Division would like to take this opportunity to thank all our York County citizens for their patience in implementing the new procedures of this contract and to again provide an overview of our programs - particularly as they pertain to the collection of yard debris and leaves.

General Garbage Collection Information

- The majority of collection routes are now automated.
- York County's weekly garbage collection service is available to all York County residents and to some eligible trailer homes, townhomes, and/or small businesses. This service is provided by York County through a contract with Allied Waste Industries. Cost for curbside garbage collections is \$13 per month for 2 container service; \$10 per month for one container. Additional containers may be requested at a cost of \$6.50 per month.
- Residents who subscribe to the County's curbside collection service may bring household waste/garbage/construction debris to the Waste Management Center's Transfer Station and citizen drop-off center free of charge.
- Residents from other localities and County residents who do not subscribe to the County's curbside collection program may also bring materials to the facility, however a charge of \$42 per ton (prorated by weight) will apply or a minimum fee of five dollars for the first 260 pounds.
- ALL MATERIALS (with the exception of Bulk Items, such as furniture, appliances, etc.) MUST BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE CONTAINER(S) YOU ARE PROVIDED AS A SUBSCRIBER TO THIS SERVICE.
- Container must be placed within three feet of the roadside curb with three to five

feet of clearance around the container itself. Place the front (opening side) toward the road for servicing.

Leaf Collections Overview

- During our leaf collection months (generally November through January), York County residents who reside on publicly maintained streets or roads can place an unlimited number of clear bags of leaves at the front roadside for collection every other week. This service is provided by York County's Waste Management Division at no additional cost.
- Residents who live in private communities, or on privately maintained streets or roads may bring leaves out to the closest public roadway for collection. In addition, ALL RESIDENTS may bring leaves to the VPPSA Compost Facility located at 145 Goodwin Neck Road, Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Yard Debris Collections Overview

- Year round, York County residents have the opportunity to schedule a special yard debris collection for items such as limbs, branches, and bags of natural yard waste.
- Acceptable material size for residential yard debris placed at the curb is 8" diameter and 10' in length, however VPPSA will accept residential and commercial yard debris deliveries containing material up to 24" diameter and 10' in length.

▪All residents may schedule a yard debris collection (approximately 15 cubic yards) at a rate of \$25 for the first load. Each additional load collected within 90 days after the first collection will be an additional \$250 per load.

▪ALL LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS working under contract who bring yard waste to VPPSA's Composting Facility will be charged a tipping fee of \$38 per ton (prorated). Landscape contractors living in York County wishing to deliver materials collected from their personal residences must contact the York County Waste Management Center at 890-3780 at least one week in advance to allow staff to inspect the material to be delivered while still on the grounds of the residence. This is to ensure that the materials being brought to the composting facility are in fact residential and not commercial in nature.

▪Loose yard debris such as grass, leaves, and straw must be placed in clear bags.

▪Stumps, construction debris and other materials CANNOT be collected.

▪Materials must be at the front roadside by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your scheduled collection week to ensure pickup before the end of the week.

▪Yard Debris Collections must be scheduled at least one week in advance. Please call the Waste Management Division at 890-3780 to schedule a collection.

FAQs

Q. I live in a community that maintains its own roadways. Why won't the County collect leaves from us?

A. The trucks used to collect leaves are large and their weight would severely damage the private lanes/roads, which are usually maintained by the community Homeowners' Association. Also,

many of these lanes/roads leave no turn around room for larger vehicles. For alternatives, call 890-3780 and ask about the VPPSA composting facility or adding a second garbage container for placement of leaves.

Q. In past years I was permitted to place up to six bags of leaves next to my

trash can. Why can't I continue to do so?

A. The County's new contract with Allied Waste Industries for curbside garbage collections consists of automated collection, which does not allow for the collection of bags. Call 890-3780 to add a second garbage container to your collection for placement of leaves.

Tornado Safety - Go Low and Get Low

Spring is just around the corner and with its arrival comes an increased threat of severe storms. This region can experience tornadoes, and spring and summer hold the greatest threat of twisters. Tornadoes often occur with little or no warn-

This year, the statewide Tornado Awareness Day is on March 14. The National Weather Service will provide a test warning on the NOAA weather radio and the schools will practice "go low and get low" on this day or sometime during the school year.

ing. For that reason, it is wise to have a NOAA weather radio that provides the fastest alert for a tornado watch or warning.

A tornado watch means that weather conditions are favorable for the development

of tornadoes. If a watch is issued, stay tuned for further advisories and be prepared to take cover.

A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted. Warnings will list the individual cities and counties at risk and include the tornado's location, direction and speed. If you are in or near its path, take cover immediately.

The National Weather Service forecasters recommend the best protection is to "go low and get low." Go to the lowest level of the structure you're in, crouch in a low position, and protect your head.

Tornado Tips:

- At home go to the basement or the first floor to an inside room without windows and get low.
- Mobile homes are unsafe during tornadoes - seek shelter elsewhere.
- If you are in a large open building, such as a shopping mall or gymnasium, go to a rest room.
- If you are outside and no buildings are close by, take cover by lying flat in a ditch or depression.
- If you are in your car, get out of the vehicle and try to find shelter in a ditch or depression to get low.

Register Now for CERT's Spring Class

Fire and Life Safety is now accepting registrations for its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course scheduled to begin on Wednesday, March 29. The CERT program gives citizens the knowledge, skills, and abilities to not only help their families be better prepared for emergencies, but to help their neighborhood be better prepared to take action when we are affected by major emergencies or disasters.

Citizens interested in CERT need to commit to attending class every Wednesday night for eight weeks of training in the evening from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and two Saturday mornings: One for training practice and the other for an exercise and graduation (May 20). Topics include Disaster Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue, and more.

Classes will be held at the Public Safety Building, 301 Goodwin Neck Road. Registration is free and open to County residents, agencies and businesses. For information or to register for the class, call 890-3600 or visit www.yorkcounty.gov/fls.

Historic Yorktown Partnership Citizen Rewards Card

The businesses and attractions in Historic Yorktown, including the new businesses at Riverwalk Landing, are partnering together to offer a rewards program to all York County citizens. To receive your Citizen Rewards Card, bring a valid I.D. or utility bill with a York

County address to one of the following locations:

★York County Administration Center

224 Ballard Street; 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
(except holidays). 890-3300.



★Yorktown Hospitality and Ticket Center

323-A2 Water Street;
10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. 890-3003.

www.yorkcounty.gov/publicinfo/discount.html

Facility Undergoes Makeover

Many customers have experienced the recent transformation at the 22-acre VPPSA Composting Facility located at 145 Goodwin Neck Road. A larger acceptance area to accommodate additional vehicles and improved entrance to minimize the wait time are two of the improvements. Anyone with yard waste materials, such as leaves, grass or brush up to 24" in diameter and up to 10' in length may bring these items to the facility.

Materials recently delivered to the facility have been processed. VPPSA has available at reasonable prices an abundance of mulch, compost, and soil blend. Call 898-5012.

Spring Burning Restrictions

Outdoor burning of leaves ONLY is permitted from 4 p.m. to midnight, February 15 through April 30. These restrictions are in effect due to the changes in wind patterns that could cause even a closely watched fire to spread out of control very quickly. Burning is also prohibited on Sundays and on all local, state, and federal holidays.

Leaf burning must occur at least 50 feet from any structure and at least 250 feet from a neighboring occupied dwelling. Fires should be in small piles (no larger than three feet in diameter) with an area of ten feet cleared of all debris around the burning area. Be sure to keep a charged water hose and rakes or shovels handy to extinguish the fire and/or to keep the fire under control. If a charged hose is not possible, have water, dirt, sand, or fire extinguishers in a sufficient quantity to completely extinguish the fire, if that becomes necessary. Burning should be attended until the fire is completely out. Here's a rule to live by: If you cannot touch it, you cannot leave it! Burning in a ditch, public or private drainage facility, or on a public or private road is prohibited. Be sure to observe all burning regulations. Violators are subject to fines and may be liable for damages. If you have any questions, call 890-3600.

An alternative to burning is to have leaves and other debris picked up by your collection service or you can take them to the Waste Management Center. For information, call 890-3780.

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

100 County Drive, P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, VA 23690-0532



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND
STATE UNIVERSITY

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

4-H Peer Teacher Program

Do you like learning about history, dressing in costume or uniform, and talking to people? Youth ages 13 to 16 may apply to be a 4-H Peer Teacher for the Yorktown Victory Center or Jamestown Settlement! Youth learn about early American history and develop poise and confidence. Selected participants will volunteer one afternoon per week for 6 weeks in the summer. All applicants will be interviewed prior to program selection. Applications are due April 7.

4-H Lawn Mowing

This program combines the skills of knowing how to mow lawns with the knowledge of how to account for, market and sell your lawn cutting business. Classes held Monday evenings in March with emphasis on safety, service, customer care, and proper lawn information. Program is free and space is limited. Registration deadline is February 27.

York/James City 4-H County Contest: March 4

Do you sing? Dance? Tell jokes? Or do you like to sew and model fashion designs? You can participate in the York/James City 4-H County Contest held at the College of William and Mary! Categories include Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Fashion Revue, and Share the Fun! This is an excellent chance to share your talents with an audience of supportive peers! Open to youth ages 9 to 19. Applications due March 1.

VA 4-H Congress at VA Tech: June 26-29

Congress is open to youths 14 and older who participate in 4-H programs/camping in York County. Congress is a great leadership development and learning experience, but it's also a ton of fun!

4-H Chrysanthemum Project

The 4-H Chrysanthemum project combines the skills of growing plants with the knowledge of how to account for, market and sell a "product." Youth will receive and grow 20 chrysanthemums. Youth ages 10 to 15 may participate. First meeting date is May 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Cloverbuds Unite!

4-H Cloverbuds is a fun and exciting program for youth ages 5 to 8. These youth meet on a regular schedule to begin learning about themselves, their environment, and their place in the world. Please contact us if you or your child are interested in participating in this program.

York County Teen Leaders: The YCTL Are Here!

The York County 4-H Teen Leaders meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Leadership, community service, trips, and a whole lot of fun are all part of the mix! And adults, if you like having a positive impact on today's youth, this is your chance to step up!

To receive applications, preregistration, or other details about these programs, go to www.yorkcounty.gov/vce, "Upcoming Events," email ex199@vt.edu, or call 890-4940. For a complete 4-H schedule, contact us to sign up for the *Clover Chronicle* newsletter.

Home Gardener Program

This program will instruct and acquaint the participant with the growing conditions and the plants adaptable to this growing location. Participants will learn proper horticultural practices. Classes are held from 9 a.m. to noon on consecutive Saturdays: March 18 and 25, and April 1 and 8. Classes are held at the York County Public Library - Yorktown Branch.

2006 Horticultural Extravaganza

The 2006 Horticultural Extravaganza is scheduled for March 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tabb High School, 4431 Big Bethel Road. This day-long event presents a choice of over 20 horticultural topics ranging from perennials, vegetables, ornamentals, lawns, and butterfly gardening from which you select 5 to attend. Program will include topics for both the novice and advanced gardener. Registration fee is \$12.00 and includes lunch.

Plant Health Clinics

"Is there something wrong with my plants or are they supposed to look like that?" Ever feel like you need a doctor to diagnose your plants? Help is here! FREE Plant Health Clinics are at homes where you can see problem situations as well as plant pests. Clinic Schedule: April 6, April 12, May 9, May 18, and May 24.

To receive applications, preregistration, or other details about these programs, go to www.yorkcounty.gov/vce, "Upcoming Events," email ex199@vt.edu, or call 890-4940. For a complete Horticultural schedule, contact us to sign up for *Your Extension Newslines*.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these activities, please contact the York Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940 during business hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations ten days prior to the event.

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2006-07 Youth Commission Applications Due March 22

The York County Board of Supervisors is currently seeking students who are interested in applying for appointment to the York County Youth Commission for the 2006-07 school year. Applicants must be York County residents who are preparing to enter grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 in September 2006.

The Youth Commission's primary purpose is to serve as a link between the Board and the County's youth by presenting youth related needs and issues. Commission members typically participate in community service projects, sponsor county-wide high school social events, and build leadership skills through various team-building activities.

A completed application form and a letter of recommendation must be received at the Parks and Recreation Office by 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 22. Gold application forms are available at the following locations: Yorktown and Tabb Libraries, Williamsburg/James City Libraries, York County Parks and Recreation, York County Public High Schools and Middle Schools. The form may also be found at www.yorkcounty.gov/youthcom.

Interested teens and their parents are invited to attend the Thursday, March 2 Youth Commission meeting from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the first floor meeting room off the back entrance of the Public Safety Building, 301 Goodwin Neck Road.

For more information about the Youth Commission, please call Parks and Recreation at 890-3500.